

IN THE CLAIMS

1-23 (canceled)

24. (currently amended) A method for transporting a sheet, comprising:

moving the sheet in a first direction by applying a first carrier which is movable in the first direction and which is capable of retaining the sheet by means of a surface force, wherein a retainer area of the sheet is retained by the first carrier and a conveyance area of the sheet projects with respect to the first carrier;

conveying the sheet from the first carrier to a second carrier which is movable in a second direction and which is capable of retaining the sheet by means of a surface force, wherein the sheet is put in a conveyance position by the first carrier, in which position the complete conveyance area overlaps the second carrier; and

moving the sheet in the second direction by applying the second carrier;

wherein, continuously during the movement of the sheet in the first direction through to the conveyance position, guidance of a guidance area of the sheet, which comprises at least a portion of the conveyance area of the sheet, takes place by applying guiding means, which guidance is cancelled only when the sheet has reached the conveyance position;

wherein the guiding means are movable in the first direction; and

wherein the cancellation of the guidance of the guidance area of the sheet takes place by realizing a speed difference of the guiding means and the first carrier.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the guiding means are capable of retaining the guidance area of the sheet by means of a surface force.

26. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the guiding means are adapted to guaranteeing that the guidance area of the sheet and the retainer area of the sheet extend at a substantially equal level.

27. (canceled)

28. (currently amended) A method according to claim 27 ~~24~~, wherein, during the time that guidance of the guidance area of the sheet takes place, a speed at which the guiding means are moved is substantially equal to a speed at which the first carrier is moved.

29. (canceled)

30. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the guidance area comprises a portion of the conveyance area of the sheet, which is a front portion in said direction.

31. (currently amended) A device for transporting a sheet comprising:

a movable first carrier which is adapted to moving sheets in a first direction and retaining sheets by means of a surface force;

a movable second carrier which is adapted to moving sheets in a second direction and retaining sheets by means of surface force, wherein the first carrier and the second carrier adjoin each other in a close-fitting fashion at the location of a conveyance region; and

guiding means for guiding a portion of sheets which are retained by the first carrier, as far as in the conveyance region;

wherein the guiding means are movable in the first direction and comprise an endless conveyor belt, and

wherein the conveyor belt comprises at least two different types of areas, wherein at the location of one type of area, a dimension of the conveyor belt in a transverse direction is different than at the location of another type of area, such that the conveyor belt comprises a number of portions protruding in a sideward direction, at the location of which the conveyor belt is broadened, while the other part of the conveyor belt is narrower than the protruding portions.

32. (previously presented) A device according to claim 31, wherein the guiding means are adapted to retaining sheets by means of a surface force.

33. (previously presented) A device according to claim 31, wherein contacting areas of the first carrier and contacting areas of the guiding means, which are adapted to contacting the sheets, are located on a substantially equal level.

34-36. (canceled)

37. (previously presented) A device according to claim 31, further comprising a frame for receiving a reel having a web which is destined to receive the sheets and to be connected to the sheets; and a gluing device for applying glue to the web.

38-44. (canceled)

45. (withdrawn) A method for transporting a sheet, comprising the following steps:

moving the sheet in a first direction by applying a first carrier which is movable in the first direction and which is capable of retaining the sheet by means of a surface force;

conveying the sheet from the first carrier to a web, wherein said web is supported by a second carrier which is movable in a second direction and which is capable of retaining the web by means of a surface force; and

moving the sheet in the second direction by applying the second carrier, while the sheet is supported by the web;

wherein, during the movement of the sheet in the second direction, the web is activated to retain the sheet by means of a surface force.

46. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 45, wherein the web and the sheet are moved along a guiding device according to claim 39; and wherein the web and the sheet are fixedly connected to each other at a position beyond the guiding device.

47. (new) A device for transporting a sheet comprising:

a movable first carrier that is adapted to moving the sheet in a first direction and that is capable of retaining the sheet by means of a surface force, wherein a retainer area of the sheet is retained by the first carrier and a conveyance area of the sheet projects with respect to the first carrier;

a movable second carrier that is adapted to moving the sheet from the first carrier in a second direction and that is capable of retaining the sheet by means of a surface force, wherein the sheet is put in a conveyance position by the first carrier, in which position the complete conveyance area overlaps the second carrier;

moving means to move the sheet in the second direction by applying the second carrier; and

guiding means for guidance of a guidance area of the sheet, which comprises at least a portion of the conveyance area of the sheet, continuously during the movement of the sheet in the first direction through to the conveyance position, which guidance is cancelled only when the

sheet has reached the conveyance position;

wherein the guiding means are movable in the first direction; and

wherein the cancellation of the guidance of the guidance area of the sheet takes place by realizing a speed difference of the guiding means and the first carrier.